Private First Class Vernetta Payne Jones

Vernetta Payne's military service was short in length but it took place during an amazing time of change in the US Army. She enlisted in the Women's Army Corps (WAC) on 8 December 1949 in Washington D.C. At that time, the WAC had a 10% quota for black women, and as a result, every seventh increment arriving at the training center at Camp Lee, Virginia had an all black unit. Jones became part of the last segregated "Company B" when she attended the WAC Training Program for Clerks from March through May of 1950. The first integrated class began training in April 1950. Jones went on to attend the Personnel Administration Course and the Adjutant General's School in Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana. She ended her military career in Fort Ord, California and then went on to a career with the federal government.

